(a) whether it is a fact that 200 Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) offshore platforms are facing serious terror threats from unregulated and unregistered fishing boats in Arabian sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect these platforms;

(d) whether any security check has been set up by Government around these platforms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) ONGC has reported extensive intrusion of fishing boats into the oil field development areas which could pose threats to the safety and security of oilfield installations.

(c) to (e) An area of 500 metres radius around the offshore installations have been declared as 'Safety Zone' under Petroleum and Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore Operations) Rules, 2008 in line with the international norms, prohibiting intrusion by unauthorized persons in the Safety Zone.

The installation of Vessel and Air Traffic Management System (VATMS) has strengthened surveillance of the offshore platforms. Regular patrolling of the offshore area is also being done by armed patrol boats.

Government of India constituted Offshore Defence Advisory Group (ODAG) advises the Government on offshore security and defence covering of offshore establishments. Coast Guards and Indian Navy keep constant vigil in consultation with ODAG..

Extension of PNG connections

2885. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections to various cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria adopted to select the cities to provide PNG connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has finalized 'Vision-2015' of the Oil and Gas Sector for 'Consumer Satisfaction and Beyond', wherein efforts would be made to provide PNG facilities to 201 more cities by the year 2015. City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities authorized by Central Government, including Joint Ventures of GAIL (India) Limited, are undertaking activities to expand the PNG network. Further, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006 has been notified to provide a regulatory framework for developing *inter alia* city/local natural gas distribution networks and to promote investment in the sector from both public and private sectors. In accordance with the provisions of PNGRB

Act, authorization for city/local natural gas distribution networks in new cities/towns are to be issued by PNGRB..

(c) Cities to provide PNG connections are selected on the basis of *inter alia* proximity to trunk natural gas pipelines, availability of gas and economic viability.

Price of crude oil

*2886. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crude oil is produced by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in the country;

(b) if so, whether the sale of the crude oil produced in the country is fixed on the basis of the sale price of crude oil in the international market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the average sale price fixed by the above mentioned organizations during the year 2008-09 and first half of the year 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) ONGC is producing crude oil from various fields/assets of the country. However, IOC, a Public Sector Oil Marketing and Refining Company, does not produce crude oil.

(b) and (c) ONGC is selling crude oil to PSU refineries as per the terms of MoUs signed between ONGC and PSU refineries. In the MoUs, the prices of crude are linked mainly with the prices of Nigerian sweet crude oil named Bonny Light.

(d) The gross price (Pre-discount price) and net price (post-discount price) are given below:

(US$/Barrel)

Year	Gross Crude Oil Price	Net Crude Oil Price
2008-2009	86.15	47.70
2009-10 (First Half)	65.58	57.33

Exploration of coastal oilfields

*2887. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has been allotted 26 coastal oilfields and 40 non-coastal fields in the country and out of them exploration work has been completed in 6 fields;

*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.